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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARYLAND ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF "GAME CHANGERS" CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY GRANTS

\$1 million in competitive grants available for Maryland geothermal and biomass clean energy innovators.

ANNAPOLIS, MD (March 26, 2013) – Today, the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) announced the second round of funding for its "Game Changer Competitive Grant Program," a program created to provide cost-sharing grants for innovative clean energy generation technologies and market strategies in Maryland. This round of funding, which is focused on geothermal heating and cooling as well as bioenergy, will leverage support for developing major energy resource conversion technologies. Winners will be evaluated on the merits of their energy production, cost-effectiveness, market potential, project viability, cost share, project performance measurement and verification methodology, and project visibility. The projects are funded based on their ability to help the State meet its renewable energy portfolio standard of 20% by 2022 as well as reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Grant recipients' progress towards these goals will be evaluated for two years following their award.

"Game Changer technology innovation projects create a win-win for our state, our businesses and our families," said Abigail Ross Hopper, Acting Director of the Maryland Energy Administration. "Pushing the boundaries for geothermal and biomass technology innovation create the foundation for a stronger future for Maryland's economic vitality and energy sustainability."

This second round of grant funding could include geothermal heating and cooling, or bioenergy, technologies, systems, or applications that are utilized in other states or parts of the world but that have not been introduced in Maryland. The technologies, systems, or applications must have the potential of significantly advancing the State's clean energy generation market. Examples could include:

- Innovative financing and how it can address the first cost barrier to market entry for non-residential applications,
- Centralized wells to distribute and store conditioned water/glycol to multiple applications to achieve greater economies of scale,
- Well drilling equipment and methods to reduce first costs of installation,
- Geothermal projects that add significant value to energy/environmental sustainability frameworks and which could become part of building codes & standards in the future,
- Biomass boiler technologies that can utilize a variety of biomass feedstocks to produce thermal energy and/or electricity to meet local energy needs and produce thermal energy and/or electricity to meet local energy needs.

Funding for the program comes from the Strategic Energy Investment Fund, which was created from public auctions of carbon credits through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. MEA expects most grant awards to range in size from \$25,000 to \$250,000, depending on the quantity and quality of grant applications received. Applications are due by April 22, 2013. For more information on the Game Changer Competitive Grant Program, visit <http://energy.maryland.gov/Business/gamechanger/index.html>.

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The Maryland Energy Administration's (MEA) mission is to assist Maryland citizens and businesses to save money through smart investments in energy efficiency, renewable energy and conservation. A Maryland state agency, MEA fuels the creation of green jobs by providing funds and resources to expand the use and availability of clean, safe energy in Maryland.